

# Demand for Compulsory Union Membership Still Bars Settlement of Steel Strike

*Union leaders have shut down the nation's basic industry in an effort to get compulsory unionism which would give them monopoly control over employees in steel.*

The strike in the nation's steel plants has continued for five weeks.

The Companies are deeply concerned over the hardships this strike is causing nearly 600,000 steelworkers and their families, employees in other affected industries, and the public in general.

The companies are anxious to reach an agreement with the Union and get their plants in operation.

In the hope of doing so they have made the best wage offer in the history of the industry. This offer includes an average increase of 16 cents an hour plus fringe benefits, making a total cost to the companies of about 25 cents an hour.

### Defense program injured

So long as the strike continues the country's defense program and the national economy are being unnecessarily injured.

The steelworkers have already lost approximately \$300 millions in wages or about \$500 each.

The loss in steel production since April has been almost 11,000,000 tons.

The steelworkers' strike in the iron ore mines is of critical importance to our national defense.

This is true because iron ore can only be shipped on the Great Lakes in summer. The present stoppage in the movement of ore could cause a loss of steel production during the winter months ahead.

Why does this unfortunate strike go on?

Why do the Union leaders refuse to accept the companies' offer — the highest in the history of the industry — and permit the workers to go back to work?

The companies believe that their last offer was not accepted by the Union leaders because the companies refused

to capitulate on the issue of the Union Shop, which means compulsory Union membership.

The companies oppose compulsory Union membership because:

1. Freedom of choice to join or not join any organization is a basic American right.
2. Compulsory unionism will give Union leaders monopoly power over employment in this basic industry.

The old "yellow-dog" contract, now prohibited by law, forced the employee to agree he *would not* join a union. The Unions claim, rightly, that this contract violated a man's right to work. Now the Union is attempting to force a man to *join* a Union when he gets his job. Is there any difference in principle in these two cases?

### Free choice benefits all

Unions can and do render useful service for their members. But, our employees will be assured of a better and more effective Union if the right of free choice for the employee is preserved.

We are now engaged in armed conflict in the cause of freedom. We are spending vast sums of money to re-arm and to help our Allies. We are shedding our blood and spending our treasure in foreign lands for the sake of individual freedom. This freedom at home must be protected from every threat.

### Steel Companies' Offer to Union

June 9, 1952

1. General increase in wage rates averaging 16 cents an hour.
2. Six paid holidays, double time for holidays worked, with appropriate provisions as to eligibility.
3. Increase shift differentials to 6 cents per hour for second shift and 9 cents per hour for third shift.
4. Three weeks vacation after 15 years of service, effective January 1, 1952.
5. Decrease Southern differential of the two companies concerned by 5 cents an hour.
6. Above adjustments to be effective upon execution of complete agreement and return to work, except that general increase in wage rates to be retroactive to April 1, 1952.
7. Agreement to run to June 30, 1954, reopenable by either party as of June 30, 1953, on the subject of general adjustment of wage rates.
8. Union security provisions of present agreements which provide for freedom of choice of individual employees to join or refrain from joining the Union will not be changed.
9. All other matters must be satisfactorily resolved.

STEEL COMPANIES IN THE WAGE CASE

5400 Empire State Building, New York 1, N.Y.